

# Colby Wants Criminal Pen For Leakers Of CIA Secre

• This is the third in a series of four articles based on an exclusive interview with former CIA Director William E. Colby.

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WASHINGTON — CIA Director William Colby would welcome responsible congressional supervision of the intelligence agency's activities but leaks of secrets must be plugged if the security of the United States is to be protected and the danger of nuclear war averted.

The leaks by a small number of senators and congressmen and their staffs, which already have cost America the loss of important foreign intelligence contacts, are undermining the covert operations of what has proved to be the best intelligence service in the world.

These were the impressions gathered during an hour-long exclusive interview with the man whose 25 years of service in American intelligence work have earned him a reputation among his peers as "outstandingly capable."

Colby believes that Congress, which

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presently has no effective system for keeping secrets, must discipline its own members to stop leaks which harm America's national interests, endanger the lives of its patriotic intelligence agents and weaken American leadership of the free world.

He also feels strongly that severe criminal sanctions should be applied against congressional staff members who leak intelligence secrets given in confidence to members of Congress. Similar penalties should, in his opinion, be imposed on those CIA employees who leave the service and then betray their colleagues and country by disclosing names and other highly confidential information to which they had access while serving under oath with the agency.

The World War II hero, who parachuted behind enemy lines in both France and Norway to help block German troop movements, believes an over-

whelming congressman to maintain a strong service, inclinations which chief of the CIA in May, 1973.

He is confident Congress as a whole will set up a procedure for practical supervision of the CIA and adopt a responsible attitude towards the plugging of intelligence leaks. He recalled that both the Senate and House voted by a 3 to 1 majority against banning the CIA's covert operations, and by a margin of 2 to 1 in favor of keeping the CIA budget secret.

Following is a condensed text of the third part of the exclusive interview with the CIA director:

Q — Sen. Frank Church has proposed an oversight committee of 9 senators and possibly some additional members of the House. If you have a dozen or more members of Congress getting the secrets of your intelligence operations, can you prevent leaks?

A — "If I could get it down to 9, I would be very happy. The problem now is that anything we do other than intelligence gathering must be briefed to six committees of the Congress. That means something like 30 to 50 senators and congressmen. Practically everything we have briefed this year has been leaked to the news media."

Q — What about the congressional staffs?

A — "Theoretically, the staffs are not supposed to be in on it but of course the members tell their staffs."

Q — Would it be practical to limit the members of Congress who are given secret information to the chairman of the Senate Intelligence and foreign relations committees, and the similar House committees?

A — "There are two aspects of the secrecy problem. One is secrecy as it applies to employees and former employees of the CIA. Our laws are very weak on that. We need some good laws with criminal sanctions for people who join the intelligence business, learn secrets while they are employed, and then go out and reveal them."

"Ninety nine per cent of the CIA employees want such laws because they are professionals and they believe professional discipline is necessary in this business. Those who don't abide by the discipline should be punished. Otherwise we cannot run our profession effectively."

"The other side of the problem is Congress. Congress never has really articulated any systematic way of keeping secrets. They never had to do so because in the past, the power structure was